

Threatened and Endangered Species in Forests of Wisconsin

This publication was produced in 2000 as
a joint project of:

Wisconsin Department of Natural
Resources - Division of Forestry and the
Bureau of Endangered Resources,
U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service,
The Nature Conservancy,
International Paper,
Stora Enso and
Plum Creek.

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and reference publication number FR-174



FIRE PINK

(*Silene virginica*)

Federal Status: Not Listed

State Status: Endangered

Description:

Fire pink is a short-lived perennial that grows 8 to 32 inches tall.

The five-petaled, crimson-red flowers appear in early summer. The flowers are about 1 to 1 1/2 inch in diameter, and each petal is



notched at its tip. The smooth-edged leaves occur in pairs on the stem. The largest leaves measure 3/4 by 4 inches, and the upper leaves are smaller.

Habitat: Fire pink inhabits rich, moderately moist, deciduous woods. Such woods may be home to basswood, wild black cherry, walnut



and elm trees. Sometimes fire pink also is found in more open woods and on rocky slopes.

Forestry Considerations: Since fire pink tolerates light shade (60% to 70% closed canopy), single-tree selection silviculture is compatible with the growth of this plant. Winter harvest, when the ground is solidly frozen and the fire pink is dormant, is preferred.

